

## **Need/Coordination (Required from all applicants)**

a. Explain how the project fills a gap that cannot be provided through other means and how a significant gap will exist in the local service area if the project does not receive Supportive Housing Program funding. Include information from your local CoC unmet needs data or other statistics demonstrating the need for the program such as project outcomes, project occupancy rate, project waiting list, etc. For projects not currently funded describe the need for Supportive Housing funds based on program expansion, increased utilization of the program, funding cuts, etc.

Coleman has made the development of permanent supportive housing a priority in the counties we serve. In Portage County, we recently restored a historic commercial building, The Phoenix, in the City of Ravenna, to provide permanent supportive housing for 10 individuals with SPMI who are also experiencing homelessness as well as enterprise businesses that will provide employment to several Coleman clients. Coleman has also purchased land in the City of Kent and the City of Massillon (Stark County), raised \$3,028,500 in capital funding, and is about to break ground on 2 independent apartment developments that will provide permanent supportive housing for 20 transition age young adults. We are committed to being part of the solution to end homelessness in our communities.

### **Portage County PSH**

Persons with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) often experience difficulty securing and maintaining safe and decent housing. Coleman Professional Services is the only housing provider in Portage County who provides supportive housing for persons diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness. The number of these individuals in need of housing continues to exceed the number of available housing options available through Coleman.

The need for supportive housing options in Portage County for those with SPMI remains high. The 2016 Portage County Point-in-Time, found 52 individuals on the streets. There are currently 56 individuals with SPMI on Coleman's housing waiting list.

### **Trumbull County PSH**

Within Trumbull County, Coleman Professional Services is the one of the only agencies that provides supportive housing for persons diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness. Persons with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) often experience difficulty securing and maintaining safe and decent housing and the number of these individuals in need of housing continues to exceed the number of available housing options available through Coleman.

Trumbull County only has a few emergency shelters. These shelters continue to have limited space and at times those shelters are not adapted to suit the needs of the single homeless male with mental health conditions. As a result, at times, single males over the age of 18 will leave the shelters and live in abandoned homes or in places not meant for human habitation. Many within this vulnerable population have also experienced physical, emotional, mental, and/or sexual trauma from a very young age and may be subjected to further trauma while living on the streets. ODSA's SHP grant allows Coleman to provide the required level of care to homeless male adults to ensure that housing AND recovery are at the forefront of their lives while at Washington House.

If this project was not available, then single homeless men in Trumbull County may find that they have no programs specifically designed for them and their needs. They may continue to engage in high risk or unproductive behaviors that leave them incapable of exiting the homeless population. There is no

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waiting list for this project since we are serving homeless persons and attempt to attend to each person's needs at the point in time of the referral.

With additional anticipated programming focused on this population, Coleman is planning to attend more to the trauma related experiences that this population has lived through. As a result, more positive outcomes are anticipated and length of stay at the home will increase. According to HUD, there is around 11,000 homeless individuals in the state of Ohio, with around 1200 being chronically homeless.

### **Beacon House**

Our local coalition continues to agree that our top priority is to serve the chronically homeless and develop permanent supportive housing options in our community. The Beacon House Safe Haven was the first permanent supportive housing program in a rural area that has a drop inn center within the building. The drop Inn center continues to serve as a place where homeless individuals can congregate in our rural setting. Currently the Beacon House is the only permanent supportive housing option that is staffed and operated by trained professionals who have the expert knowledge and supportive services available to help those who are chronically homeless and suffer from a severe mental illness. The Beacon House has an average occupancy rate of 98.3% and has 7 individuals on a waiting list. In calendar year 2015 100% of program participants met their housing stability goal and 93% of those who left had increased or maintained their sources of income. 100% of those who left the Beacon House went onto permanent housing placements.

Our local PHA is operating at a 99.8% occupancy rate and our local PHA office is not taking any section 8 applications. . If the Beacon House would not get funded as it has in the past at the previous funding levels, the loss of these 10 beds would create an even larger gap within our continuum of care. We continue as a local system of care to attempt to retool our existing programs and resources to work towards putting an end to chronic homelessness.

b. Describe how the applicant participates in the planning work of their Homeless Planning Region and/or CoC: The description must include discussion of the applicant's participation in Homeless Planning Region/CoC committees/workgroups, if any. This should include identification of the level of involvement of the applicant and the role they play within each committee/workgroup identified.

### **Portage County PSH**

Coleman Professional Services is an active member of the local Continuum of Care organization, known as the Housing Services Council (HSC), with Coleman staff serving as a Secretary on the Executive Team and multiple staff members active on HSC committees. The Housing Services Council is comprised of numerous nonprofit and local government entities that work to address the housing and supportive services needs of homeless and other low-income persons who live throughout Portage County. Coleman's residential personnel work with staff from other agencies to identify homeless persons with severe and persistent mental illness who are in need of supportive housing in the community. Coleman coordinates with the local hospital, municipal and county court systems, other social services agencies and the local emergency shelters. Coleman routinely assesses for and refers to the local Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program. Our Housing Specialist also attends a monthly coordination meeting with staff from the local homeless shelters and transitional housing for families and youth services to coordinate housing placement for all homeless people in Portage County.

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### **Trumbull County PSH**

In Trumbull County, Coleman currently manages four Shelter Plus Care grants for the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB). Coleman also manages the Housing Assistance Program funds that are provided by the Trumbull County MHRB and provides transitional rental subsidies to families. Coleman manages the transitional rental subsidy grant from Ohio Development Services Agency that is targeted to homeless transitional youth who are living independently in the community upon receipt of the transitional rental subsidy funds.

Coleman is the lead entity for Region 5 and participates actively in the local continuum. The Shelter Plus Care Coordinator at Coleman is the local continuum secretary. Coleman also manages Homeless Crisis Response Program funds for Region 5. Coleman coordinates with these agencies on a daily basis, is responsible for all of the HMIS data for these grants, and is also the County Administrator for HMIS data. Coleman gets referrals from its existing staff as well from other agencies. We continue to attend community meetings discussing the transition aged youth and other specialized populations of the homeless individuals within the county.

### **Beacon House**

In Jefferson County, Coleman currently manages two Shelter Plus Care grants for the Jefferson County Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB). Coleman also manages the Housing Assistance Program funds that are provided by the Jefferson County MHRB and provides transitional rental subsidies to families. Coleman housing staff participates in the Region 6 continuum and actively is involved in the local Jefferson County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. Coleman takes a lead role in the local Point In Time Count and works daily with the members of the continuum to assist with finding housing options for homeless adults and families.